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ITS SCENERY 2
AND
GOLD FIELDS,

BY

DR. W. J. ANDERSON, L.R.C.S.E.,

President, Literary and Historical Society, Quebec.

QUEBEC:

PRINTED AT THE "MORNING CHRONICLE" OFFICE.

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CHAUDIERE VALLEY.

THE Valley of the Chaudière extends from Lake Megantic, on the borders of Maine, to the North Shore of the St. Lawrence, about nine miles above Quebec. It is one of the earliest settlements in the Province, the Seigniors holding patents from Louis Quatorze. The valley is beautiful and populous, and moderately fertile. It produces abundant crops of hay, oats and barley, and raises great numbers of cattle, which find a ready market in Quebec. Formerly a considerable quantity of wheat was grown, but of late years, owing to the midge and blight, its cultivation has been generally abandoned.

The *habitants* were formerly *censitaires*, holding their farms under seigniorial tenure, but since the passing of the Seigniorial Tenure

Act they are the proprietors of the soil. The exceptions are so few, that this district may be truly said, to be exclusively *Franco-Canadian*, the occupants claiming descent from the first settlers, and retaining the language, the religion, and the customs of their forefathers. The present seigniors, the Taschereaus and de Lery's, claim descent from the distinguished men whose names are so intimately connected with the early history of Canada. Mr. Pozer, who at present represents the County of *Beauce* in both the Local and Dominion Legislatures, is the only seignior not of French descent. His progenitor, a German gentleman, attempted to settle his seigniority with Germans, but few remained after the first winter, and we question, if, with the exception of Mr. Pozer himself and the members of his family, more than *one* other German can be found in the whole valley. The population is moral, orderly, industrious and hospitable, and, at any rate till the discovery of gold, was quite contented with its lot, their farms yielding in abundance, more than sufficient to supply their simple wants.

GOLD, SILVER, &c.

Gold, silver, copper, and precious stones, chiefly garnets of trifling value, have been

found along the beds of the river and its tributaries, and on the adjoining highlands.

The late Mr. Charles de Lery, seignior of Rigaud de Vaudreuil, gave me the following account of the discovery of the precious metals. Some time before the conquest, in the time of his great-grand-father, some Indians had occasion to make an encampment in the neighbourhood of his Mansion, in what is now the Parish of *St. François*, and one morning, when the fire was burnt out, on raking up the ashes, they discovered a metal, which they brought to Mr. de Lery, and which turned out to be silver. M. de Lery sent it to France, where it was manufactured into a set of salt spoons, which were, at the time he related the circumstance to me, in his possession.

GOLD DISCOVERED.

The next discovery, that of *gold*, was made about half-a-century ago, by a woman, near the mouth of the *Touffe de Pins*, or *Gilbert River*, a tributary of the *Chaudière*, but it attracted no attention. But in 1834, a woman taking a horse to water at the same spot, saw something glittering in the river, which proved to be a nugget of considerable size, as it

weighed 1066.63 grs. No other discovery was made known till the following year, though it is believed that the brothers *Poulin* had made a further discovery, which induced Mr. C. de Lery to make a search, which resulted in the party under his direction finding, in about two hours, gold to the value of £18.

In granting the Seigniory of Rigaud de Vaudreuil, the French King had made, as was customary, certain reservations, one of which was that the grantee "should give immediate notice to the King, or his Governor and Intendant, of the discovery of all *mines, ores or minerals.*" Being satisfied of the value of the discovery, Mr. de Lery applied to the Canadian Government, and in 1846 secured a patent giving him exclusive right of mining in the Parish of St. François.

Mr. de Lery said, that it was somewhat curious, that notwithstanding his first great success, he never again found an atom of gold and that though the men whom he employed found some quantity, they asserted that when ever he made his appearance where they were digging, the gold was never to be found.

Mr. de Lery was induced to abandon the working himself, and gave a lease of his rights

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for a certain number of years, to a Quebec Company, of which the two brothers, Drs. Douglas, Captain Rhodes and the late Mr. J. Bell Forsyth, of Quebec, were prominent members. The company carried on operations for some time with indifferent success, and eventually Dr. James Douglas alone became interested in the lease, and prosecuted the work for some time with characteristic energy.

The first company, called the *Chaudière Mining Company*, commenced operations on the *Touffe de Pins*, about a mile from its mouth, and though they worked for several years, it was with so little skill and economy, that the receipts did not cover the expenditure. The *Des Plantes* was also worked in several places, and at the spot immediately above the first Fall, a deposit was struck, which yielded for several weeks from three to ten ounces a day. Here also was tried the experiment of dry digging. In 1853, when the company was working on the *Des Plantes* and the *Famine*, Lord Elgin paid a visit to the works. The gold of the *Du Loup* and *Famine* is smaller than that of the *Gilbert*, while the gold of the *Des Plantes* is much larger than that of the *Gilbert*. It is to be regretted that this first attempt should have been attended with so little success, as it was, Dr. Douglas seeing

that the enterprise would not prove remunerative, desisted, and his signal failure no doubt had a tendency to retard future adventure. This is the more to be regretted, because while these operations were being prosecuted, the *Canada Mining Company* worked extensively during the summers of 1861 and 2, and washed alluvions at the mouth of the Du Loup. The operations were superintended by a Cornish miner, *Captain Otey*, who adopted the Cornish system for washing tin. In 1852, three-eighths of an acre were washed, and 2,880 dwts. of gold obtained, of the value of \$2,496. Mr. James Douglas says: "Nine of the nuggets weighed together 468 dwts.; the largest being 127, and the smallest 11 dwts. The sum expended for labour was \$1,888, leaving a profit of \$608."

Mr. Douglas justly adds: "Had the same amount of labour been as systematically and scientifically employed elsewhere, there is reason to think the result would have been more encouraging."

The *Canada Mining Company* was obliged to abandon its work, on account of some disagreement and threatened legal proceedings on the part of the adjoining proprietors.

After 1855, it would seem that the public had come to the conclusion, that though there was gold on the Chaudière, it would cost more to produce it than it was worth, and the gold fields were accordingly looked upon as things of the past. Yet they were not forgotten by all, for it is known that several *habitants*, especially the five brothers Poulin, were all the time, at intervals, working with more or less perseverance and success. One of the brothers, on being asked by the Curé to give the Church gold to gild the High Altar, is reported to have replied, that "he could give what could gild the whole Church." Exaggerated reports prevailed of their wealth thus acquired, but as it was the product of "poaching on another's preserves," they made no outward show of it, and continued to live on in the usual way. But early in the summer of 1863, it was generally rumoured that the Poulins, with their nephew, *Narcisse Rodrigue*, had discovered on the *Gilbert*, where it passes through the farm of the latter, a very considerable quantity of gold, and it was ascertained by the agent of Dr. Douglas, that the report was true.

Dr. Douglas at once entered into an arrangement with these parties, and gave them a mining license on condition that they should pay over to him, one fourth of the gold found.

Under this agreement, a certain amount of gold was paid over, with which the doctor was quite satisfied, believing it represented his proportion, so far as in reason he could have expected; but, in the interim, it had so happened that, believing it would be more to his advantage, he had sold out the reversion of his lease, (a period of fifteen months,) for \$3,000, to Messrs. Parker and Hans Hagens. It then became necessary that his son, Mr. James Douglas, should be sent to intimate to all parties at the Chaudière, that he had ceased to have anything to do with the gold-field, and to close the outstanding accounts. On the evening of Mr. Douglas' arrival at St. Francis, he was called out of the Inn by one of the Poulins, who informed him that he and his brothers wished to have a conference with him behind the barn. Mr. Douglas at once assented, and the interview commenced by the question being put to him: "Mr. Douglas, did you really and truly intend to charge us no more than we agreed to give you?" "Most certainly," replied Mr. Douglas, "what made you ask such a question?" "Oh!" was the rejoinder, "we were told that you intended to make us pay more, but here is *your* gold," and he handed to him a bag containing nearly two pounds weight of gold. They then told him that believing that he did not intend to abide by his bargain, they had re-

tained that portion of his due, always intending to give to him what was strictly his, at the close of the season; that they had made the Curé aware of what they had done, who had authoritatively enjoined on them the preserving an exact account, and surrendering to Mr. Douglas what was his at the final settlement. They were well pleased when Mr. Douglas returned to them some odd ounce of gold, and promised to use his influence with the new lessees, to get them a favorable location for continuing their operations. This he also fulfilled to their satisfaction. Mr. Douglas felt it his duty to call on the Curé, and thank him for the part he had taken. The Curé said: "I thought since they had retained the gold, they might retain it to the end of the season, but they said, 'No M. le Curé, our consciences are tender now, they may become hardened, so we had better give up the gold at once.'"

I tell this story without any comment, but as well calculated to illustrate the morals and manners of the inhabitants of the Chaudière Valley in 1863. Dr. Douglas received, as his portion of the product of eleven days' digging, two and a-half pounds of gold.

I had been down in Nova Scotia, and had taken the opportunity of visiting the gold

fields of Wine Harbour and Sherbrook, and being struck with the great similarity which these bore to a certain locality in the neighbourhood of Quebec, I was still more surprised on taking up a Quebec paper, to find that the excitement about gold in the Chaudière had arisen anew since my departure. I resolved to visit the mines, immediately on my return to Canada. Things had reached the point I have mentioned just before my arrival at Quebec.

Having decided to visit the diggings, I made my arrangements, and crossing with the *St. Marie* mail-courier in the ferry boat to Pointe Levis, and there taking his vehicle, proceeded along a splendid macadamized road through a beautiful and well cultivated country to *St. Henri*, a pretty village, distant about twelve miles from Quebec, *St. Henri* is the centre of the parish of the same name, the population of which exceeds 3,200.

We then proceed along the ordinary main road of the district, which though not macadamized, was in very fair condition, to the village of *St. Isidore*, six miles from *St. Henri*. The population of this Parish is 2,500.

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ELLISON, Photo.

Ste. Marie, Beauce.

JAS. DOUGLAS.

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posite *St. Bernard*, we approached the Chaudiere along whose bank the road continues to *St. Marie*, a very large and beautiful village in the seigniory of *Taschereau* and *Linieres*, with a population in the parish of 3,500. Here I parted with Bilodeau the courier, paying him one dollar and a-half for the thirty miles. I put up for the night at Blouin's, a most comfortable inn, distinguished for cleanliness and neatness, and having a pretty garden well stocked with dahlias and other flowers. My bill for supper, bed and breakfast, amounted to sixty cents. I had intended to have hired a vehicle to *St. Francois*, but having the good fortune to be joined at breakfast by Mr. James Douglas, who was on the way to the mines and was moreover intimately acquainted with the localities, I availed myself of his courteous offer, and accepted a seat in his carriage, and had the pleasure and advantage of his company till my return to Quebec.

Leaving Blouin's at 8 A. M., we drove along the bank of the river, on an excellent road, the sun shone bright, the broad river flowed placidly along its banks here and there fringed with beautiful elms, and the balm of Gilead poplar, and aspen. The slopes of the rising ground on either side of the river, were dotted with white cottages and barns which with the smiling farms (harvest

was just commencing) imparted a feeling of peace and happiness. We arrived at Mrs. Calway's inn, a little after noon, where we remained some two hours inspecting the fall of a brook over serpentine rocks, crossed with white quartz,—and in dining. The village of St Joseph is a little further on, Mrs. Calway's is a very comfortable inn, and the charges moderate, dinner being only twenty-five cents each. This parish contains 3,600 inhabitants.

VAUDREUIL.

After dining we drove to Vaudreuil or St. François, which is fifty-four miles from Quebec. We here left the main road and taking a cross road of very steep ascent, after travelling two miles, found ourselves at the Summit, I should suppose about 500 feet above the level of the river at the point where we left it. Here we left our carriage and commenced our descent to the *Gilbert* about a mile and a-half distant. The ridge was every here and there covered with boulders, interlineated with quartz, and in many places slate protruded above the soil. The first part of the path to the diggings lay through the open field, but the latter portion through a dense wood, which continued close to the bank

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ELLISON, Photo.

St. Joseph, Beauce.

JAS. DOUGLAS.



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of the brook, on arriving at which a scene of great interest and activity presented itself.

The Company, who in addition to acquiring the mining rights of Dr. Douglas, had secured a further lease from Mr. DeLery for fifteen years, had commenced operations on the Gilbert. They had not only made a sluice and employed men in digging and washing gold themselves, but had the wisdom to sublet claims to all applicants, on terms varying from fifty to one hundred dollars for the season. I was told that counting those in the employ of the Company and those working on private account, there were then on the ground about two hundred and fifty miners. I counted upwards of sixty at the place I visited. Having spent an hour or two on the ground very much interested with what we saw, we retraced our steps to where we had left our carriage and returning to the Chaudiere, crossed it opposite the

VILLAGE OF ST. FRANCOIS,

where we put up at *Barbeau's* and took tea. St. François is fifty-four miles from Quebec, and the population of the parish 3,600. As the evening was pleasant, and bright moon light, we de-

cided to proceed up the river to *St Georges*, and arrived at *Cahill's* "American House," about one in the morning. Notwithstanding the unseasonable hour, we were welcomed and our horse cared for. The American Hotel is situated about two miles below the Falls, at the junction of the du Loup with the Chaudière. The surrounding district has furnished specimens of gold, and it is thought that it may yet prove as prolific as the Gilbert. *St. Georges* is sixty-three miles distant from *Quebec*, and the population of the parish is about 1,500.

LITTLE FALLS.

On the following morning after breakfast, we drove to the "Little Falls," and after bathing in the pool below, and inspecting a quartz vein crossing the river, we ascended half a mile further to the "Big Fall." The scenery was very beautiful, but owing to the lowness of the river, the Falls did not show to advantage. This was the extreme point of our journey, and we then commenced our return homewards. We had resolved to pay *en passant* a second visit to the *Gilbert*, so we turned off at the same point as on the previous day, and on ascending the hill overtook three young gentlemen with whom we were ac-

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ELLISON, Photo.

St. Francois, Beauce.

MAS. DOUGLAS.



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quainted, and with whom we had an interview the day before, at the *Devil's Rapids* on passing that point in the carriage, we were shouted to from the opposite side of the river. We stopped and a canoe with one of our young friends crossed over; he informed us with the greatest sincerity and delight that we need go no further to seek for gold, for that they had discovered as much as they wanted, in short that the supply was unlimited. He invited us to go over, and inspect the discovery, and we did so, but to the extreme disgust of the party, we had to tell them, that if their riches would not make unto themselves wings and flee away, that they would certainly float down the river, as the "fine gold" was nothing but very beautiful plates of *mica*. We recommended them not to waste any further time there, but to spend the rest of their holiday at the Gilbert. They were now on their way, in true California rig—the most stalwart, a gentleman of the long robe, was striding along carrying their tent, another one a sack with provisions, and the third, picks spades and cooking implements. If their mothers knew they were out, they certainly would not have known them if they had then met them. On our arrival at the diggings, we found as much bustle as on yesterday. We first visited the claim of Poulin & Rodrique, where we found eight

men, digging and washing. A few days ago they had taken out, one nugget of pure gold, which they sold on the spot to Mr. Park r, for \$200. On the three days previous to our visit, they had taken out successively 16 oz., 10 oz. and 11 oz. per day.

Mr. Douglas and I each washed a pan, which yielded eighty cents each. Mr. Douglas then dug two large panfuls from the drift, which I assisted in washing. His pan produced one nugget for which he paid \$7.50, and several smaller pieces. My pan only produced about three dollars worth, which might have been owing to its being a first attempt. We paid the Poulins for the gold of the two pans \$11.50. During the time we were there we saw several large pieces washed from this claim, one of which was estimated at the value of \$40. The Poulins were evidently the lucky men of the diggings, as the adjoining claims had hitherto yielded little more than working expenses. A young merchant from Quebec, who had just commenced digging in the adjoining claim, had procured in all, about fourteen dollars worth of gold, in three days, and was very sanguine that he would soon strike the drift which had yielded to the Poulins so rich a harvest. I regret to say, that as if to show the uncertainty of all mining operations, though his pit was

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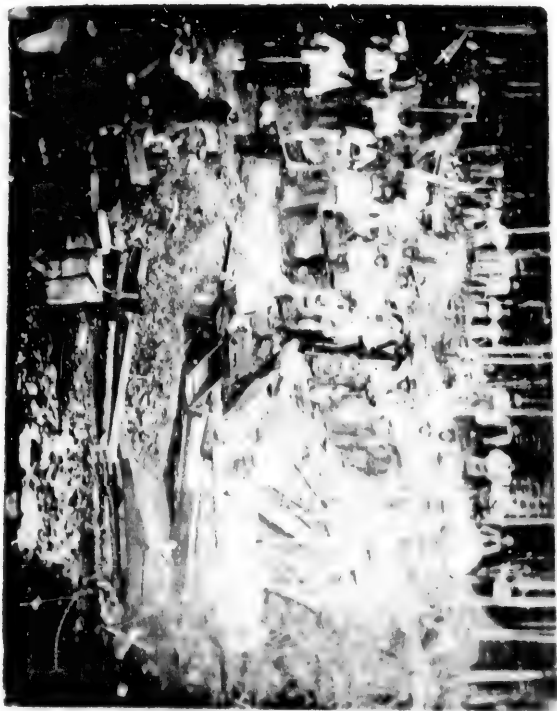
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ELLISON, Photo.

GILBERT DIGGINGS,

1863.

JAS. DOUGLAS.



only a few yards from the Poulins, he was entirely disappointed.

DEVIL'S RAPIDS.

Having spent some hours, very much interested in what we saw, and Mr. Douglas wishing to purchase some 'dust,' the term applied to a collection of the smaller nuggets, he asked Narcisse Rodrique, if he had any for sale. Rodrique grinned from ear to ear, and replied, "Oui Monsieur," and at once accompanied us to his house on the clearing of his farm on the top of the hill. The house was a log cabin of about ten feet by fourteen, of a single apartment. There was no lock on the door, and though we had passed his wife and children reaping at some distance from the house, there was no fastening, and he only had to "pull the bobbin," and the "latch flew up." We entered and Rodrique drawing two three legged stools of very primitive construction towards an equally simple table, invited us to be seated. Then going to a sort of cupboard, the door of which was closed by a wooden button, he brought forth, two soup plates, both full of nuggets of all sorts and sizes, which he said was the common stock of himself and partners. The quantity was weighed

out, which Mr. Douglas wanted, the money was paid, and after I had selected and paid for a few nuggets for specimens, the soup plates were returned to the cupboard, and we all left the house together. Rodrique to return to the diggings, and we to our carriage, at the house, where we had left it. We arrived at *Barbeau's* in time for tea. On our way we stopped at the Devil's Rapids, and examined the Quartz vein, which there crosses the lines, and in which gold has been found. The American company had formed a sort of cofferdam with sand bags, at the west bank and were about to test the vein by blasting. The cofferdam proved inefficient and they accomplished nothing. The night being fine with bright moon, we decided to go on to St. Marie, which we reached at a late hour. We slept at *Blouins*, and on the following morning, after breakfast, started for Quebec, and arrived at Pointe Lévis, just as the noon gun was fired. Thus ended very satisfactorily my first visit to the Chaudière Mines.

Shortly after this, on the 12th September, the Government sent Mr. Judah, of the Crown Lands Department, to visit and report "on the actual state of affairs on the Chaudière," and on the 26th, immediately on his return, Mr. Judah sent in a report, since published, which contained really all that was worth

knowing. It is a very valuable report, and perfectly reliable so far as it goes, and it is important as being *official*. I shall give a summary. Mr. Judah pointed out that the operations up to that date were confined to Seigniories, there being none on the Crown Lands. He stated, with very little variation, from the account I have given, the facts in connexion with the discovery and the working. He states that within his knowledge the per centage paid by the Poulins and Rodrique to Dr. Douglas, from May till the middle of July, amounted to \$600. As might have been expected, many had been disappointed, but he adds:—"I think that for the most part, the workings have been remunerative, for I did not see or hear myself, while I was there of any instance of dissatisfaction or disappointment." On *one* day, on which he visited, ten men got out of one pit \$100 worth. He further says that one of the Poulins admitted to him, that the share of himself and his three brothers, had then exceeded \$1,000 each, and he was inclined to think that this was an under estimate, as he subsequently saw in their nephew, Rodrique's house, a saucer containing, at the lowest estimate, \$1,080, being his share. I may say that the two soup plates which I saw contained somewhat over *eleven pounds* weight of nuggets. Mr. J. believed that at least \$18,000 worth of gold had been

taken out, at the date of this visit. He pointed out what was obvious to everyone that the pits were being dug without any regard to order or present convenience, and totally regardless of future operations. He incidentally mentions a circumstance which had an important bearing on the future, and which I fear did more to retard the development of the mines than any other thing. "A few days," says he, "previous to my visit to the mine, Dr. Reed of Quebec, had purchased the Vallieux and Grondin lots, for I was informed, \$300 each, and had placed men to work on one-third shares; these had been notified to desist by Messrs. Hagen & Co., and such notice being disregarded, the latter had sued out process against them; matters were in this state when I left the mine."

Knowing the very great jealousy which exists in every part of the British Dominion, against privileges being confined to a few of the rich and powerful to the exclusion of the poor, industrious and enterprising, on my return from the mines, I published a paper, in which I admitted that while Government was undoubtedly justified in making the concession to Mr. De Lery, at the time it did, that circumstances were now entirely altered, and I thought it would find on enquiry, that it might be expedient to resume the

patent, *with the consent of and indemnifying the Seigniors*, as there could be no question but that the patent was valid." Government left the matter to the action of a committee of the Legislature, which unfortunately gave satisfaction to no party, as it neither recognized nor repudiated the rights of Mr. De Lery, but left the contending parties to fight it out, at much cost and trouble while as a consequence the development of this promising field has been very much retarded. This is the more to be regretted as the success of the first isolated efforts, though far from displaying anything like scientific skill, was such as to hold out a prospect of very gratifying results, more especially as the salubrity of the valley, and the facilities which it afforded for all the requirements of mining, with the cheapness of labour and provisions, could not be found elsewhere, and above all the disposition of the inhabitants was every thing that could be desired. I accord most completely with Mr. Judah, when he says:—"I cannot conclude this report without bearing testimony to the quiet and good order existing at the *Gilbert* mine. The miners consist chiefly of French Canadian *habitants* from the adjoining parishes with a few persons from Quebec and elsewhere, and at neither of my visits did I hear a word spoken in anger."

Though the cloud no bigger than a man's hand, as we have seen, had arisen, the season of 1863 closed satisfactorily, and most sanguine hopes were entertained for the next season.

During the next year, 1864, the Government issued regulations for the Government of the Gold Fields and appointed Major de Bellefeuille superintendent of the Chaudière District. His duties were for a time merely nominal, but towards the close of the season, some troubles arose in connection with disputed rights, and application was made for police, but no serious disturbance ever took place, though a great many miners had been attracted from various parts of the Province, and some from England. The Glengary men mustered in considerable force, and were energetic and successful, and it is known that a very considerable quantity of gold was taken out during the season, a great portion of which was purchased by Messrs Glover & Fry and the Quebec Bank. Among the Glengary men, McRae appeared to have been the most fortunate as he took one nugget which was exhibited before the Gold Committee of Parliament which weighed 12 oz. 14 dwts. and was purchased by the Quebec Bank. A new feature in mining was also introduced. Hitherto the miners had only dug

pits of a few feet in depth, now the sinking of shafts was commenced with considerable success, and another great advantage was derived from this, whereas all operations of necessity had ceased on the commencement of winter, now the miners were enabled to work during winter with comfort and advantage.

THE GILBERT.

I took occasion to visit the mines on the *Gilbert* in March, 1865. It so happened that the day before our visit an attempt had been made to eject some of the miners from one of the claims, and when we drove up at noon the men who were at dinner came swarming out of the boarding house, like bees out of a hive, when they are intruded on; they appeared also to be much in the same tempers, as it was evident they mistook us for myrmidons of the law, but as I had been introduced to one of them in Quebec, who soon recognized me, we met a very cordial reception, and were taken down one of the shafts, a little over twenty feet in depth, where though the day was intensely cold above, there was no frost, the temperature being quite pleasant, and the water which in sum-

mer was a nuisance, was now of great advantage, as it enabled the miner to wash the gold, which could not be done at the surface, at that season. One of the miners washed a pan when I was in the shaft, and gave me for a quarter of a dollar a very pretty specimen of gold which it contained. The men specially McCrae appeared well content with their fortune, and I have no doubt that they had good reason to be so, as a very large quantity of gold found its way to Quebec, and I am convinced if Government had at this time made an arrangement with Mr. De Lery, and opened up the field to healthy competition on terms similar to those adopted by the Nova Scotia Government, that such action would have been attended with the like satisfactory results. Their not having done so led to numerous vexatious and expensive suits at law, in which all parties gained a loss, and all mining operations were for a time put a stop to.

Before leaving the mine, I purchased from one of the miners, 9oz. of gold at \$18 per oz., and from another 6oz., at \$17.50 per oz., being of the total value of \$267. Mr. Douglas, who was with me, also purchased a few ounces. I purchased the gold on this occasion for an experiment, as I intended to send it on to the Assay Office, New York, in order to test its value.

I sent it on free of charge by a friend, who also brought back the yield to me in \$20 gold pieces from the mint. Here is the result:— There was some variation in the weight, as 9oz. Chaudière weight only yielded at the mint 8oz. 70°, which, on being melted, gave 8oz. 59° gold, of 884¹⁰⁰⁰ fineness, and of the value of \$156.97, subject to a deduction of 78 cents mintage, leaving a net value of \$156.19. The Chaudière 6oz. yielded 6oz. 18°, and after melting, 6oz. 09°, but only of the fineness of 874¹⁰⁰⁰, and of the value of \$110.03; mintage being 55 cents, the net value was \$109.48. My two packets thus yielded \$264.34, consequently I was a loser by the experiment of \$2.66, beside a month's interest.

Shortly after this, my second visit, all operations were suspended, for the causes mentioned, and had it not been for the energy of a Québec merchant, it is probable that mining would have ended for some indefinite time. But Mr. Thomas Glover, who had always had faith in the Chaudière, had sufficient enterprise and intelligence to induce certain gentlemen in Québec and New York to associate themselves in a company, the now well-known *DeLery Gold Mining Co.* This company engaged in operations with much energy, and obtained a charter from the Canadian Government in 1865. The large

amount paid to Mr. A. DeLery, and the sums given to other interested parties, shewed that the company was in earnest, and the extensive and costly surveys, conducted by Mr. A. Michel, of the Canada Geological Survey, and by Professor Hinds, proved the correctness of the views already propounded, by Cunningham, Sir W. Logan, Professor Hunt, Mr. Jas. Douglas and others, and naturally had a tendency to increase public confidence in the venture, but it is very much to be regretted that the general policy of the company was not at first calculated to secure co-operations from the poor but independent miners, on whose good-will and aid experience has proved that all such ventures must really rest. Two surveys were prosecuted and a crushing mill was built at a cost exceeding \$10,000, but so far as the public is aware, no dividend has yet been paid. Latterly, the company has adopted a different policy, and has conceded large tracks, to be worked by parties independent of them. And for the last two years an English gentleman, Mr. Lockwood, the representative of a wealthy English company, and who is himself familiar with California mining, has conducted very extensive operations, by the aid of improved machinery, and it is understood, that though he has had to contend with many obstacles, he has succeeded in taking out such a quantity of gold,

as to encourage him to proceed on a still more extensive scale during the present season.

The extent of the gold fields of the Chaudière is admitted, by all geologists who have visited them, to be very great, and though active operations had hitherto been mainly confined to the Gilbert, du Loup, Famine and Des Plantes, but chiefly to the *Gilbert*, there is no doubt that other fields will, on being tested, be found equally productive. It has been noted that the gold, up to this date, has been altogether taken from the tributaries of the Chaudière, on its eastern bank. Gold has been found on the Grand Coudé, on the western side, but not in such quantities as to induce miners to abandon the more productive and better known localities. Gold mining on the Chaudière has hitherto been confined to the digging and washing the alluvions, and no one has yet undertaken to say positively whence it is derived. Sir Wm. Logan, who always writes with great caution, says:—"The source of the gold *appears* to be the crystalline schists of the Notre Dame range, and the materials derived from their disintegration, not only constitute the superficial material among the hills of the range, but are spread over a considerable area to the south of them."

Mr. Douglas says :—" Whether quartz be the original matrix of all gold or not, a good deal of the large gold of the Chaudière is found with more or less quartz adhering to it, and several specimens from placer deposits, are almost embedded in the rock, though no vein yielding such large gold has yet been opened."

Experience in other parts of the world has proved since this was written, that though quartz is perhaps the most general matrix, it is far from being the sole ; but in reference to the conjunction in the Chaudière, every one must have been struck with it. In the parcels of gold which I purchased, I always made allowance for it, though seldom sufficient. Mr. Douglas has recorded the fact, that "Dr. Anderson obtained gold from a small fragment chipped off a small boulder at St. Mary's." The gold was invisible in the quartz, but after pulverization, and being treated by mercury and evaporated in an iron spoon, a small triangular flake was deposited, such as I found on a piece of slate at the diggings of Wine Harbour, N. S.

At the time Mr. Douglas wrote (1863), what he said was true, that " It is yet an open question, whether after all the Canadian gold fields are to be a source of wealth to the Province,

or only a subject of curious enquiry to the geologist and mineralogist."

Mr Michel, three years later, wrote:—
 "Moreover, we must not lose sight of the fact, that there exist many sections of modern alluvions in the seigniory, capable of being worked out advantageously by the Californian methods, which permit the profitable washing of gravelly alluvion, when the minimum return in gold yields only 10 cents per ton," and—

"I have pointed out the abundance of quartz veins already discovered in the lands of the Seigniory, as well as to the favorable results of the assay, applied to the mineral extracted from the several veins," and in conclusion he expresses his belief "that the working out of the quartz of the seigniory, as well as its deposits of alluvion, is worthy the attention of those interested in gold mining and the confidence of capitalists."

I have never doubted that the fields of the Chaudière, if skilfully and economically worked would prove what is termed in mining phrase *available*. Past failures have not diminished my confidence. I only wish that there existed the means by which we could ascertain the actual amount of gold produced under past not over judicious ope-

rations. I consider I am justified in forming an opinion from what I saw on my two visits, and I know it to be fact, that on the 7th July, 1865, one of the nuggets dug from Smith & Dale's shaft, weighed 9 oz., and became the property of Mr. Robb, of Montreal, and that on the 27th of the same month, another nugget, weighing 12 oz. 14 dwts., was found by McRae & Co., in their shaft, and this with about a pound of gold dust was exhibited by McRae to the Gold Committee of Parliament, on 8th February.

Writing of the Chaudière, in 1864, I used this language;—"We should not like, however, to say, that every adventurer will make his fortune; we would rather discourage those who are at present engaged in useful and profitable occupations, from following the "*ignus fatuus*," of the gold seeker. The past season may furnish a profitable lesson; a few like the Poulins will realise handsome returns, a few more will make fair wages, the vast majority will be disappointed." I have seen this prediction fulfilled, but I again repeat my confidence in the Chaudière is still undiminished, and I trust and believe the operations now being carried on by Mr. Lockwood, will be eminently successful.

Since the preceding was written I have had an opportunity of looking over official returns in the Crown Lands Office, and I have collected a few facts, which being official are not only interesting but will, perhaps, carry some weight.

Mr. Judah reports to the Commissioner, that, on the 21st December, 1866, there was taken out from a shaft on the left bank of the Gilbert, at a depth of 32 feet, a nugget measuring $6\frac{3}{4}$ inches long, and $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches broad, weighing 3lbs., 9oz., 12 dwts., or nearly 46 oz., and of the intrinsic value of \$850. Mr. Judah offered that sum for it, as he desired to procure it for the Paris Exposition, but the holders declined to give it under \$1,200.

The returns for this year are not very regular, but Mr. Pope, the Superintendent, reported that during the two months ended 31st March, that, there were 7 shafts worked by 20 men without the Seignior, and 7 shafts worked by 27 men within, and that in addition to these there were from 15 to 20 others of the mean depth of six feet, but that these were not worked continuously.

On the alluvials within the Seignior there were six shafts worked by 34 men, which had produced in 28 days \$287 of gold.

On the 13th December, the agent of the Reciprocity Co., furnished Mr. Pope a return, showing that there was gold taken out by it within the previous four weeks, as under :

From a pit with 5 men.....	\$700 00
“ “ tunnel with 5 men.....	504 00
“ “ pit with 3 men.....	275 00
And casually taken out of other pits, and } while prospecting for locations....., }	1,200 00
Total.....	\$2,679 00

In 1867, during April and May, gold to the value of \$6,240 was found, including one nugget, weighing 4lbs. 2 oz 10 dwts., 33 grs. taken from a pit on the left bank of the Gilbert, at the depth of 18 feet, on lot 16. This nugget was of the value of \$1,000, and it together with another of the value of \$800, became the property of Mr. Thomas Glover, and both were exhibited by him to many in Quebec. The returns are not complete, but show that up to 31st December, \$20,146 worth of gold had been realised, \$6,000 of which had been taken by 10 men from McRae's shaft, during the 60 days preceding that date, giving at the rate of \$10 per man, per day.

In 1868, the quarter ending 31st March, gave	303 oz.
“ “ “ 31st July, “	452 “
“ “ “ 30th October “	336 “
“ “ “ 31st Dec. “	324 “
Total.....	1,415 oz.

During the latter part of this year several of the best shafts had to be abandoned owing to the over flow of water which could not be overcome by the pumps then in use.

On the 17th October, 1870, Mr. Pope reported that in the month of May and June preceding, the water being very low in the rivers, surface gravel was worked on the *des Plantes, Branch, Famine, du Loup*, and *Chaudière*, and sufficient gold obtained to make it cover working expenses, that during the past eighteen months, 1,455 oz. of gold had been taken out, all but a few ounces, *within* the Seignior of Rigaud de Vaudreuil, and that during that time he had issued 749 private licenses.

It must be borne in mind, that work was never carried on continuously, but was subject to serious and protracted interruptions at one time from flooding of the shafts, and again from the opposite cause, drought.

On the 5th January of this year, Mr. Pope reported that the *Canadian and North West Land and Mining Company* of which Mr. Lockwood was manager, had been obliged to abandon for a time lot 15 and transfer its plant to lot No. 8, where they had now a shaft sunk to the depth of 94 feet. Mr. Lockwood

has since been obliged to visit England, and during his absence no operations were carried on, except sinking the shaft, and the returns show that during the three quarters ended 30th June, only 85 oz. of gold were taken out.

Mr. Lockwood, who, I have already stated, has had large experience in gold mining operations in other countries, having completed his arrangements in England, has recently returned to Quebec, and is about to resume his operations on the Chaudière. Extensive as they have hitherto been they are only to be looked upon as exploratory in order to map out the exact courses of the ancient auriferous rivers beds, which he has proved are not to be reached at a less depth, than ninety feet. Large sums have been already expended but not more than was necessary, and for which previous experience had fully prepared him. He resumes operations with greater confidence than ever, and with every expectation that the operations of the present season will yield very satisfactory practical results. I have always held and expressed the opinion that both science and capital would be necessary for the proper development of the Chaudière Gold Regions, and I am happy to believe that I shall soon see this opinion realised. Mr. Lockwood's success will not only benefit his own Company, but the DeLery

Company especially, as well as all who are interested in gold operations in the Seigniory. I am glad to learn that the position of the De Lery Company, has been of late much improved, and that recent legislation has enabled it to arrange satisfactorily some troublesome law suits. On the suspension of work by the *independent* miners, Government very properly decided to withdraw the inspector from the Chaudière, as also the police force, but I am informed that when operations are resumed on the extensive scale proposed, and should circumstance require it, all necessary protection will be afforded. In conclusion, I may say that Mr. Lockwood has evidence, that up to this date, not less than \$700,000 of gold has been taken from the Chaudière, and that the work has been done so carelessly and unscientifically, that it would pay well to go over the same ground again. I have had ample evidence that during the eighteen months ending in March 1859, Messrs Glover & Fry of Quebec, purchased from independent diggers in the Seigniory of Rigaud de Vaudreuil, 999 oz. of gold which they remitted to England, and which proved to be of the value of \$17,500.

Grande Allée, Quebec, }
 8th June, 1872. }

ROUTE AND TABLE OF DISTANCES TO THE CHAUDIERE GOLD MINES.

By Ferry—From Quebec to Levis, (Town,) Miles... 1

By land <i>per</i> Kennebec Road,	Along the banks of the River Chaudiere.	St. Henry, (Village,).....	" ... 10½
		St. Isidore, "	" ... 9
		Ste. Marie, "	" ... 10
		St. Joseph, "	" ... 12
		Plantes, (River,).....	" ... 5
		St. Francois, (Village,).....	" ... 6½
		Touffe des Pins, (River,).....	" ... 4½
		Famine, "	" ... 3½
		St. George, (Village,).....	" ... 1½
		Jersey, (Post Office,).....	" ... 2½
	Along banks of River du Loup.	Metgermette, (River,).....	" ... 11
		Portage, (River,).....	" ... 5
		Marlow, (Post Office,).....	" ... 1
		Boundary Line,.....	" ... 9

CHAU.

... 1
... $10\frac{1}{2}$
... 9
... 10
... 12
... 5
... $6\frac{1}{2}$
... $4\frac{1}{2}$
... $3\frac{1}{2}$
... $1\frac{1}{2}$
... $2\frac{1}{2}$
... 11
... 5
... 1
... 9